

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-17 are pending in the present application after cancellation of claims 3 and 14.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 14 has been canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 9-13 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. . § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rueger et al. (U.S. Patent 6,619,268). However, the Examiner also noted that claims 3-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the subject matter of claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1, and pending claims 2 and 4-13 ultimately depend on claim 1. Claims 15-17 have been amended to incorporate features substantially similar to the features incorporated into claim 1. For at least these reasons, claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-17 are in allowable condition.

Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Jong Lee for Richard Mayer
Richard L. Mayer
Reg. No. 22,490
KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200